



**Heritage Hill Association Board Meeting
March 21, 2018 Minutes**

In Attendance: Lisa Baars, Wes Beck, Suzanne DeHaan, Kate Diedrich, Chris Grygiel, Michele Giordano, Todd Hoort, Mark Hutchison, Mary McCarthy-Fuller, Wayne Norlin, Erin Shupe and Nathan Slauer

Absent: Nikki Hoort, Wendy VerHage Falb, Sarah Green

Staff: Jan Earl, Maria Zache Starkey

Public: Rob Metzger and Curt Benson

1. **Call to Order** – 7:00 p.m.
2. **Call for New Business** – No new business.
3. **Minutes** – Minutes of the February, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.
4. **Correspondence Files** - Circulated among board members.
5. **Public Comment:**
 - **Robb Metzger** presented information regarding ongoing problems with parking at 312 Prospect NE, a multi-unit apartment building.
 - **Curt Benson**, a neighbor on Morris SE, presented information on his candidacy for Circuit Court Judge.
6. **Treasurers Report** – Early in the year for analysis. The hope is that the low turnout of Home Tour 2017 was an outlier year.
7. **Staff Reports:**

In addition to her written report, Jan Earl remarked that while Home Tour is front and center, the proposed zoning changes related to Housing NOW! are requiring intense organizing. Numerous meetings, conversations with neighborhood associations, community leaders, neighbors, non-profit developers and more. HHA has sent out multiple updates to neighbors and is currently seeking to cancel the Tuesday, March 27, public hearing due to the Planning Department presentation of a 116-page data report with only a short time before the hearing. HHA urges neighbors to flood City Hall and to write our commissioners. We are seeking robust community engagement on this proposal.

Work continues with promoting the Association's 50th birthday; discussion included the draft logo, continued search for a videographer and fleshing out the 50/50/50 concept of the 50th anniversary, 50 accomplishments and 50% of the run profits going to the Association. There is also a Teaser Tour run/walk offering the weeks before Tour and Saturday morning of Tour weekend.

Jan also announced that HHA (and other neighborhood associations) were not approved for a **tech grant** for website improvements, especially in the areas of being mobile friendly and creating a community calendar.

GRCC has plans to reconstruct its Devos Campus parking lot which will impact Home Tour; coordinated efforts are being made to mitigate the inconvenience during the tour.

Historic District Study: The report is posted on the HHA website. Fifteen neighbors attended a community meeting. There was no opposition; HHA sent a letter of support.

532 Lyon NE, Jellema House: Two families purchased the property but there is no firm plan for its use except that first floor will be a residence for one owner. The need for parking is the focus issue for neighbors. There is a possibility of using second and third floors for transitional or emergency housing for families but that would require a variance from Planning Department.

Members asked for additional details from Tansy's written report about a death in the south part of the neighborhood that is related to a drug house.

8. Committee/Board information groups:

- **Land Use:** No new discussions points except what was previously discussed above.
- **Administration:** Nothing to report this month.
- **Fundraising and Finance:**
 - Home Tour:** Planning is in full gear. Publicity/News releases are out and printing of postcards is done. Bus route is done, tickets nearing completion, meeting to arrange teaser runs, walks for Tour and meeting with Steering Committee. Kate D. outlined an idea for a drawing and encouraged any willing members to bake mini cupcakes to be given away during the tour. Kate and Suzanne D. have visited 7 of 8 homes, Nikki H. and Nathan S. are making great efforts in marketing and Grand Rapids Running Tours will be holding a run Saturday morning of tour with historic information being provided to the runners about the homes on tour.
 - Texas Hold'em:** Raised a little over \$1,000 at the February event. Discussion included the myriad of challenges in orchestrating these events.
 - Garden Tour:** The tour is set for Saturday, June 9th, with two gardens recruited so far and one sponsor. Plans are in progress but currently on the back burner.
- **Community Engagement:** Todd H. reported announced plans for a Fun Run in the neighborhood, likely to be held in October, to be a 5K and to end at Pleasant Park with cider and doughnuts and "fake" medals for the kids, etc. The emphasis will be on "fun" and all are welcome to participate.

9. **No New Business.**

10. **No Old Business.**

11. **Public Comment:** Robb Metzger requested help or suggestions for his Prospect NE issues.

12. **Meeting Adjourned** at 8:15pm.

Submitted by Maria Zache Starkey